

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-01

INFO OCT-01 PA-01 INR-01 ISO-00 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7477

UNCLAS TANANARIVE 1324

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

USINFO FOR IAA, IOR/M, IPS AND IBS

1. MR. RALAIARIJAONA, PRESIDENT OF THE ORDER OR MALAGASY JOURNALISTS, RETURNED TO TANANARIVE THIS MONTH AFTER A 40-DAY LEADER GRANT TO THE UNITED STATES. MR. RALAIARIJAONA IS ALSO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF "MARESAKA", A SMALL INDEPENDENT MALAGASY LANGUAGE DAILY (CIRCULATION 5,500).

2. FOR THE PAST WEEK, MR. RALAIARIJAONA HAS RUN A SERIES OF ARTICLES IN "MARESAKA" DEVOTED TO THIS TRIP TO THE U.S. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS WERE DRAWN FROM THE SERIES:

- IT WAS ONLY WHEN I ARRIVED IN THE U.S. THAT I LEARNED THAT THE RADIO AND TELEVISION MEDIA IN EACH STATE ARE OWNED BY PRIVATE COMPANIES AND NOT BY THE GOVERNMENT. ONLY THE VOICE OF AMERICA IS OPERATED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

- IN THE U.S., FREEDOM IS A VERY STRIKING THING. THE PRESS HAS THE LIBERTY TO SAY WHATEVER IT LIKES. ABOVE ALL IT IS CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO THE EXPLANATION WHICH WAS GIVEN TO ME ABOUT THIS FREEDOM, THE U.S. CONSTITUTION IS SACRED. NO ONE CAN TAMPER WITH THIS DOCUMENT BECAUSE IT PROTECTS INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES. THIS IS WHY THE CONSTITUTION IS DEFENDED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE PRESS. THE PRESS IS REALLY A FORCE AT THE VERY HEART OF THE NATION AND  
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BESIDES LISTENING TO THE NEWS ON THE RADIO, BUYING AND READING THE NEWSPAPERS IN THE U.S. HAS BECOME A HABIT.

- IN WASHINGTON, THERE ARE 32 RADIO STATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS SEEN TO IT THAT THEY ARE WELL ORGANIZED

IN ORDER TO AVOID OVERLAPPING OF THE NEWS.

- AT THE VOICE OF AMERICA THE EMPLOYEES ARE NOT ALL WHITE, BUT THERE ARE ALSO BLACKS. I SAW BLACKS AND WHITES WORKING TOGETHER AT ALL OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITES I VISITED.

- AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, I NOTICED THAT THE MOST RECENT BOOKS ARE FOUND, SUCH AS A BOOK ON THE EVENTS OF 1972 IN MADAGASCAR.

3. MR. RALAIARIJAONA PLANS TO CONTINUE WRITING HIS EXPERIENCES AND STATES THAT IT WILL PROBABLY BE A LENGTHY SERIES.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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